

Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services Minutes  
October 17, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Barans, Tom Boudreau, Ruth Eren, Ann Gionet, Jay Kearns, David Daniel Klipper, James Loomis, Sara Lourie, Kathy Marchione, Yana Razumnaya, Sara Reed, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Barbara Salop, Stan Soby, Larry Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: Catherine Abercrombie, Nancy Bagatell, Judy Dowd, Alison Fisher, Chera Gerstein, Tesha Imperati, Jacqueline Kelleher, Joel Rudikoff, Tricia Winter

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Commissioner Terrence Macy, Jennifer Bogin,

GUESTS: Michael Blaszkowski, DDS Staff, Sarah Abelli, DDS Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 A.M.

Public Comment

None.

Additions to Agenda

Update on Focus Groups.

Focus Groups for program participants on their experience with the pilot program.

Discussions included:

- How to get the word out? College campus resource centers, social media such as Skype, Facetime, Facebook, Webinar, upload to web, video conferencing, use ASRC to get the word out, social skills groups, Autism Resource Fair, pass out in DDS Autism Application Packets, send to individuals currently on the waitlist.
- Who would attend? ASD individuals and their parents.
- Location? DDS-SR New Haven Office, West Hartford Library
- Times? 2 independent times, possibly tag onto a social skills group meeting, late in the day, groups should be small so not to feel intimidated.

Approval of June 20, 2012 Agenda

Motion was made by Barbara Salop and second by Larry Wood to accept the minutes. Motion was passed unanimously.

Introductions:

All present introduced themselves and their affiliation. Committee welcomed the new Autism Director, Jennifer Bogin.

Prospective New Member(s) Introductions

### Feasibility Study Update

A copy of the Executive Summary should have gone out to Council members. Comments should be directed to Commissioner Macy or Jennifer Bogin. There were recommendations in the areas of financing and insurance. Governor Malloy is very interested in the ASD program and are awaiting his okay.

### Update on Autism Program Matters

Jennifer updated Council members the Autism Spectrum Division staff which consists of the Director, a Case Management Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant and four Case Managers. To date, we have 90 individuals on the waitlist, 25 adults and children waiting for review, 30 applicants have not been determined-requesting more information to be submitted and 45 individuals have been determined not eligible for DDS Autism Services.

25 DCF children will be coming over to DDS, 4 of them are ready November 1<sup>st</sup>. We are just waiting for the go ahead to proceed.

The division has 32 Qualified Providers for Autism Services; 4 of which are pending approval for Behavioral Support.

The division is finding that, for individuals not on the waitlist, families are growing frustrated trying to find resources within the State. We are trying to connect them to services available but it's geographically challenging. The waitlist does not just go by first come; first served it also goes by the individual's level of need.

Yana believes that the social skills groups are getting too big. Yana feels it may be time to start a women's group to help break down the large groups.

### Provider Assessment/Qualifications/Orientation

No progress on determinations made as to what a provider orientation would look like. Larry Wood will send out previous work product of Provider Subcommittee. Group will draft recommendations to support personnel as a key issues, as current practices are not what they should be. Jim Loomis to convene the group. No one can be responsible for implementation quality more than the employer of support staff. There should be strong accountability from regulatory agency. The current program quality uniformly is not good. Need to have a fair amount of oversight, reasonable expectations so people can grow. Now would be a very valuable and a good time to start with the new waiver approaching. Commissioner Macy made recommendations around credentials –mom and pop organizations are popping up more frequently pretending to be qualified. We need to expect a high degree of commitment. Input is important as is training and oversight. In DDS, everything is done by stakeholder groups. Stan, Jenn, Jim, Lois, Larry, Nikki, Ruth and Angie to review what has been done before next group meeting, with the aim of creating a framework to roll up to the stakeholder group. Kathy to send Jim Loomis the BRS provider qualification process.

Autism Division will be hosting an Autism Provider forum in December. The goals are to level out clinical and focus on training issues. Sarah will be sending out The Save the Date flyer today.

#### Evidence-Based Practice

No word. Item needs to be put onto the next agenda to follow up. Need to start with first piece. What was the original discussion and could we get information on Evidence-Based Practice? Discussed doing a forum to get info out about EBP for providers and families. Stan to follow up with Tricia. Lois, Jim, Carol and Ruth interested in being part of group.

#### Nominations and Membership Committee Report

Minor revisions to by-laws as presented. Sara Lourie will revise and give them to Stan to get them out to Executive Committee for review and then Council for action.

Council needs to review the process for new members. Members were given draft copies of Division of Autism Spectrum Services Advisory Council New Membership Process and Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services FAQ's. Members to review and give feedback to Barbara Salop for revisions.

#### New Business

ASRC and Southern Center of Excellence are hosting a 2 day Regional Conference March 15 & 16 at SCSU Lyman Auditorium. Keynote speaker Brenda Smith Miles

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 9:00 am at 370 James Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, New Haven**